

DR.  
STRANGE

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



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# DOCTOR STRANGE

MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS

**ALONE  
AGAINST  
ETERNITY!**

ETERNITY IS  
**DESTROYING**  
THE ANCIENT  
ONE--

--AND I'M  
**POWERLESS  
TO STOP HIM!**



Once he was a man like most others --- a worldly man, seduced and jaded by material things. But then he discovered the separate reality, where sorcery and men's souls shaped the forces that shape our lives. In that instant, he was born again, to become a man like no other --- a man who left us behind, as he strove to stand against the unseen subtle perils hovering thick and black around our fragile existence...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **Dr. STRANGE** MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!™

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IS NO MORE.

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HE HANGS IN  
THE VOID.



AROUND  
HIM, ABOVE  
AND BELOW  
HANGS THE  
EARTH...

...IN SHARDS.



DR. STRANGE,  
THE SORCERER  
SUPREME,  
VOWED THAT  
EARTH WOULD  
NOT DIE...

...AND IT  
DIED.

THAT MOST ENIGMATIC OF  
MANIFESTATIONS, ETERNITY,  
HAD SAID IT WOULD, AND  
WHEN DR. STRANGE CHOSE TO  
CONTEND AGAINST HIS WORD--



--ETERNITY CHOSE  
NOT TO DESTROY  
HIM. INSTEAD, HE  
CHALLENGED  
STRANGE TO OVER-  
COME THE FACTORS  
WHICH WERE DRIV-  
ING EARTH TO THE  
BRINK!

THE MYSTIC MASTER ACCEPTED,  
FOR HE WAS A MASTER.  
HE KNEW THE NATURE OF MAN  
QUITE WELL.



BUT HE FORGOT  
FATE.

NOW, FOUR BILLION  
LIVES LIE HEAVY ON HIS  
CONSCIENCE--AND ONE  
OF THEM IS YOURS!



OH, YES--  
HE ALONE  
YET LIVES...

...AND YOU  
DIED, SIX  
MINUTES AGO.



OH,  
GODS!!

THEY'RE ALL DEAD-- THE ENTIRE WORLD IS DEAD! BARON MORDO DESTROYED EVERYTHING IN HIS ALL-CONSUMING MADNESS!

I COULDN'T STOP HIM--HE TOOK ME BY SURPRISE! I THOUGHT--

OH, WHAT DOES IT MATTER NOW?

CLEA! WONG!

GODS, THEY'RE GONE!

IF ONLY I'D GONE WITH THEM, INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THE POWER OF PROLONGED LIFE GRANTED ME BY THE ANCIENT ONE TO CARRY ME FREE!

FAR BETTER THAT THAN THIS-- THIS AWFUL EMPTINESS, WITHIN AND WITHOUT, AND THE SCREAMING, SEARING MEMORY OF THE END!

CLEA WAS THE WARMEST, FINEST--

HOLD!

I CANNOT CONTINUE LIKE THIS!

I DO YET LIVE--AND I AM THE SORCERER SUPREME! UNDER THOSE CONDITIONS, HOW CAN I ACCEPT DEFEAT?

SUDDENLY, THERE IS FIRE IN HIS STARE  
ONCE MORE!

CURSE ME FOR A  
NOVICE! THERE MUST  
BE SOMETHING--  
SOMETHING I CAN  
USE--!

YES! THERE IS!

NIGHTMARE!

HE APPEARED MOMENTARILY  
IN MORDO'S DREAM, \* AND  
I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY!  
I EXAMINED MYSELF, TO  
MAKE CERTAIN I WAS NOT  
DREAMING ALL THIS UNDER  
HIS SPELL--AND I WASN'T. \*\*

\*\*\*10.--\*\*\*11.  
--MARV.

THE AMULET'S  
ARCANE BEAM PLAYS  
ACROSS HIS RAVAGED  
FACE, AND HE SLUMPS  
IN A DEEP, THOROUGH  
TRANCE!

BUT HIS SPIRIT--  
HIS SOUL--HIS  
ASTRAL FORM  
SLIDES FREE OF  
HIM, FULLY AWARE--

--AND STREAKS ACROSS  
AND OUT OF OUR  
UNIVERSE!

ASK HIM WHAT HE HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH,  
AND HE COULD NOT TELL YOU. ALL HE  
KNOWS IS THAT HE WILL NOT LIE DOWN  
AND LET GO!

--BUT THAT'S THE  
ONLY ANOMALY  
I CAN SEE!

HIS APPEARANCE  
MAY HAVE BEEN  
COINCIDENTAL,  
BUT IT'S ALL I  
HAVE TO GRASP  
AT!

MORDO IS DEAD!  
ETERNITY HAS VANISHED!  
AND SO I CALL UPON  
THE EYE OF AGA-  
MOTTO--

--TO TAKE ME  
TO THE REALM  
OF DREAMS!

BUT THEN... THERE IS  
NOTHING HE  
COULD TELL  
YOU NOW...!

THE  
DIMENSION  
OF DREAMS!

HOW DIFFERENT FROM MY  
REALM IT IS! WHERE THE  
UNIVERSE IS FILLED  
WITH SUNS--LIFE!--

--NIGHTMARE'S  
DIMENSION IS  
LITTERED WITH THE  
AWESOME REMNANTS  
OF EVERY MAN'S  
IMAGINATION.

DEAD THINGS  
THEY ARE-- FANTASTIC  
GALACTIC GARBAGE--

--UNTIL CALLED FORTH  
TO LIVE IN SOME SLUMBERING  
MORTAL'S MIDNIGHT  
FANCIES!

BLESSED BE THE GODS  
THERE BE THAT MEN  
SELDOM REMEMBER  
WHAT THEY SEE HERE!

--OR--  
DID SEE!

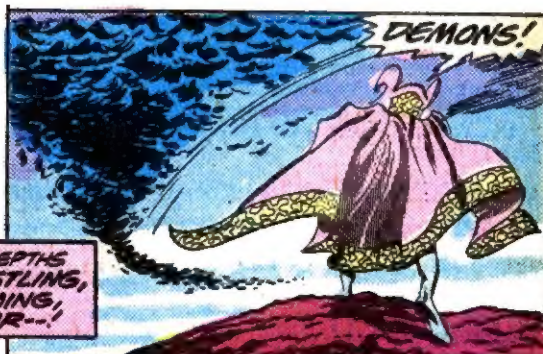
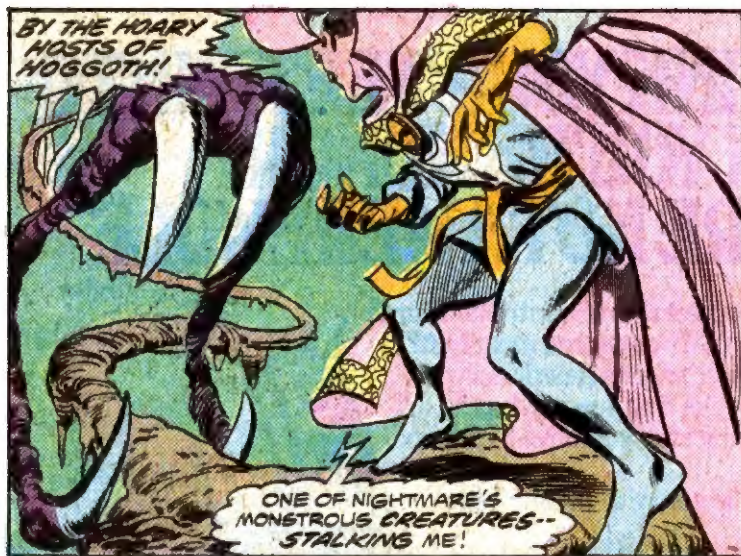
I MUST NOT  
LOSE MY WAY  
NOW--NOT IN  
ANY  
FASHION!

IF I'M TO  
SERVE ANY  
PURPOSE--

--I MUST CLEAVE  
TO SANITY AS CLOSELY AS I  
CLEAVE TO THIS PATH! OTHERWISE--

EH?

THAT SHADOW--!





**POUNDING WINGS  
BLACKEN THE EBON  
SKIES--**

**--HELL-FIRED  
EYES SPARK  
GOLD IN THE  
GLOOM--**

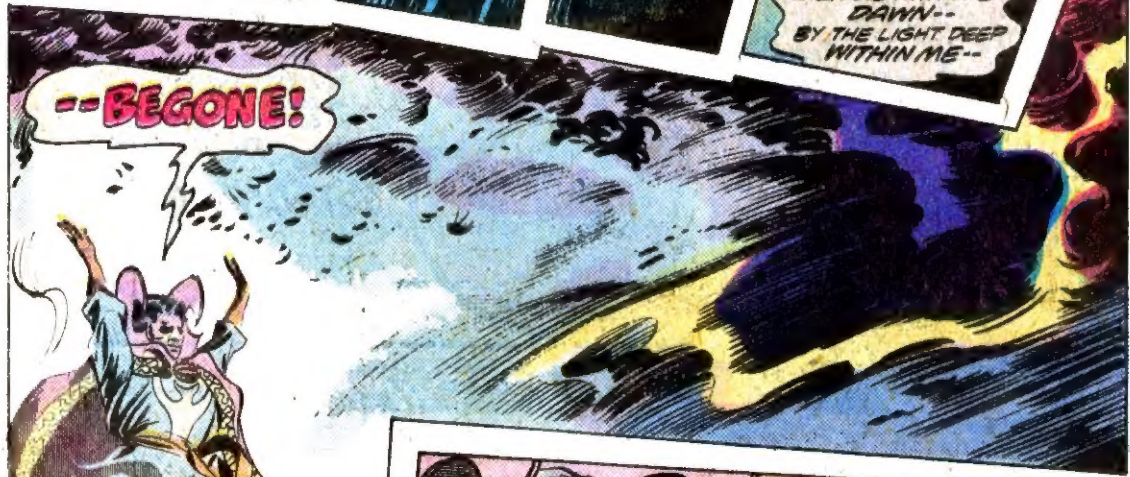


**--AND KNIFE-EDGED  
BEAKS SLASH FROM  
ALL SIDES AT THE  
MAGE!**



**AND  
YET...!**

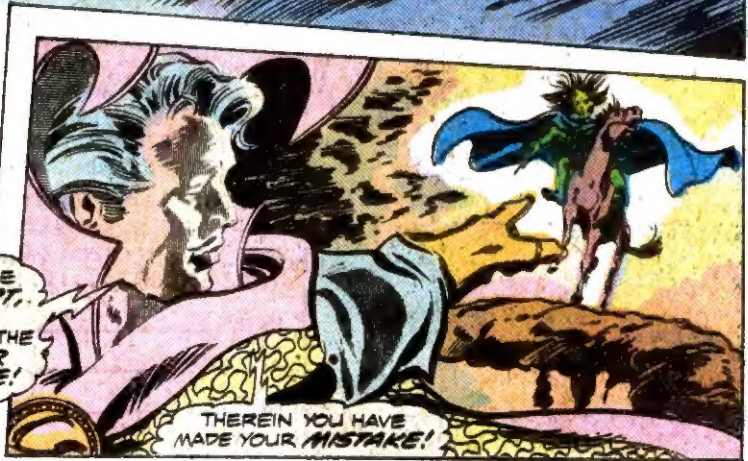
**THE DARK FORCES  
GATHER--  
THEN DIE WITH THE  
DAWN--  
BY THE LIGHT DEEP  
WITHIN ME--**



**--BEGONE!**

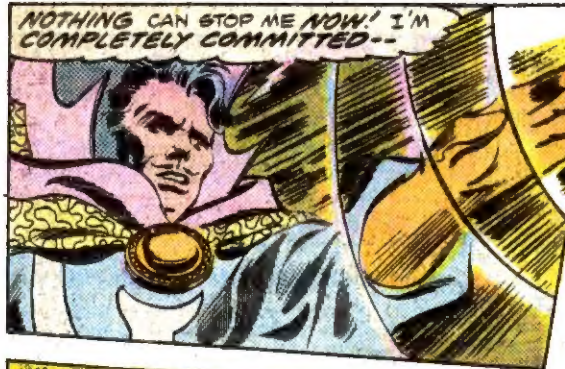


**YOU KNOW ME  
AS AN ADEPT,  
NIGHTMARE--  
BUT NOT AS THE  
SORCERER  
SUPREME!**



**THEREIN YOU HAVE  
MADE YOUR MISTAKE!**

NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW! I'M COMPLETELY COMMITTED--



WHEN THEY DIE AWAY, THE BATTLE IS OVER!



HE WAS ALWAYS MY EQUAL BEFORE, BUT NOW-- WAIT!

THERE WAS SOMETHING HE SAID, WHEN I FIRST SPOTTED HIM--! "SO YOU DO RETAIN YOUR MYSTICAL MIGHT!"

WHY WOULD HE HAVE THOUGHT OTHERWISE-- UNLESS...



"AND SO FAILURE CANNOT FIND AN ENTRANCE TO MY WILL!"

FOR AN INSTANT, ALL THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW FLASH FROM THE RIDGE WHERE NIGHT-MARE RODE-- LIKE A CANDLE-FLAME IN QUARTZ!

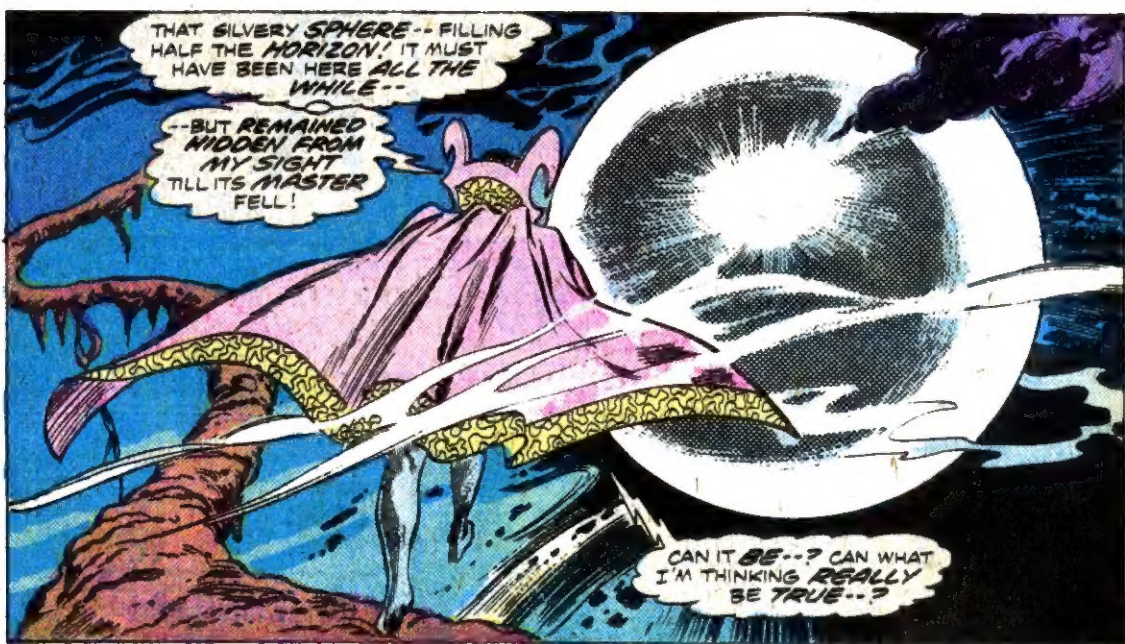


...AND SEES...

HIS MIND IS BEGINNING TO SPIN NOW, WEAVING FANTASTIC IDEAS! ENTRANCED, HE TURNS HIS HEAD...

THAT SILVERY SPHERE-- FILLING HALF THE HORIZON! IT MUST HAVE BEEN HERE ALL THE WHILE--

--BUT REMAINED HIDDEN FROM MY SIGHT TILL ITS MASTER FELL!



CAN IT BE--? CAN WHAT I'M THINKING REALLY BE TRUE--?



IT'S  
INCREDIBLE  
-- BUT I'LL  
KNOW FOR  
CERTAIN--

--ONCE I SEE  
INSIDE!

NAY! NAY!  
LEAVE WHAT'S  
MINE TO ME,  
ACCURSED  
MORTAL!



THE MASTER OF THE  
MYSTIC ARTS IGNORES  
HIS HOST'S SHRILL CRY!  
FOR THE FIRST TIME,  
HOPE SURGES UP WITHIN  
HIM, AND HE SURGES  
FORWARD--



--TO  
FIND--

ETERNITY!!

BY ALL THE GODS!!  
ETERNITY!!



WHAT'S  
THE MATTER  
WITH HIM, NIGHTMARE?  
WHY IS HE SO DARK?

YOU'LL  
NEVER KNOW,  
NECROMANCER!



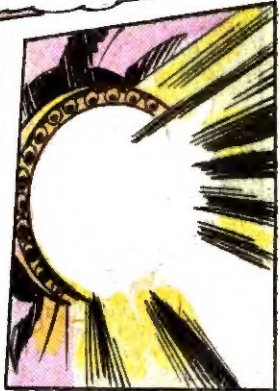
YOU'VE  
ATTEMPTED TO  
CAPTURE HIM  
BEFORE--\*

--IT SEEMS  
THIS TIME  
YOU'VE  
SUCCEEDED!

BUT I CAN FREE HIM  
FROM YOUR SPELLS  
WITH MY AMULET--!

NAY!  
DO NOT--!

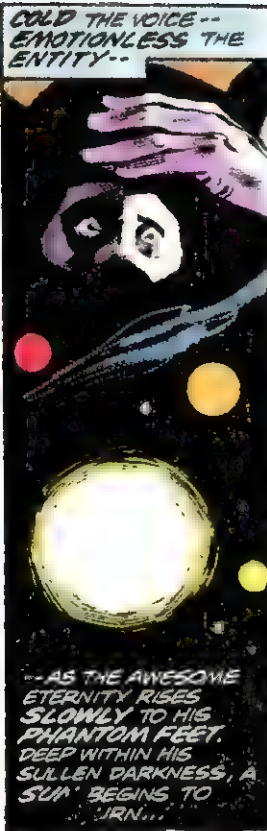
\* DR. STRANGE  
#180-182. --M.





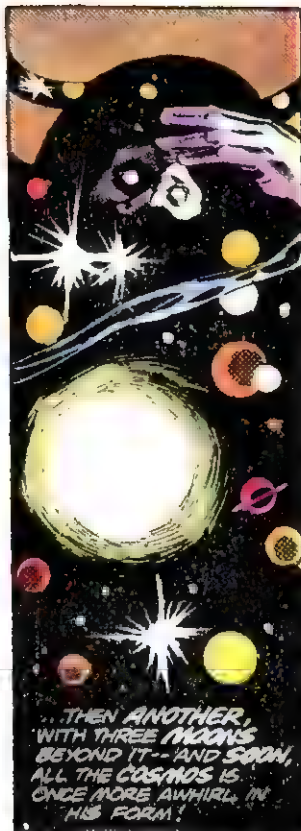
AHA!

I  
AWAKEN.



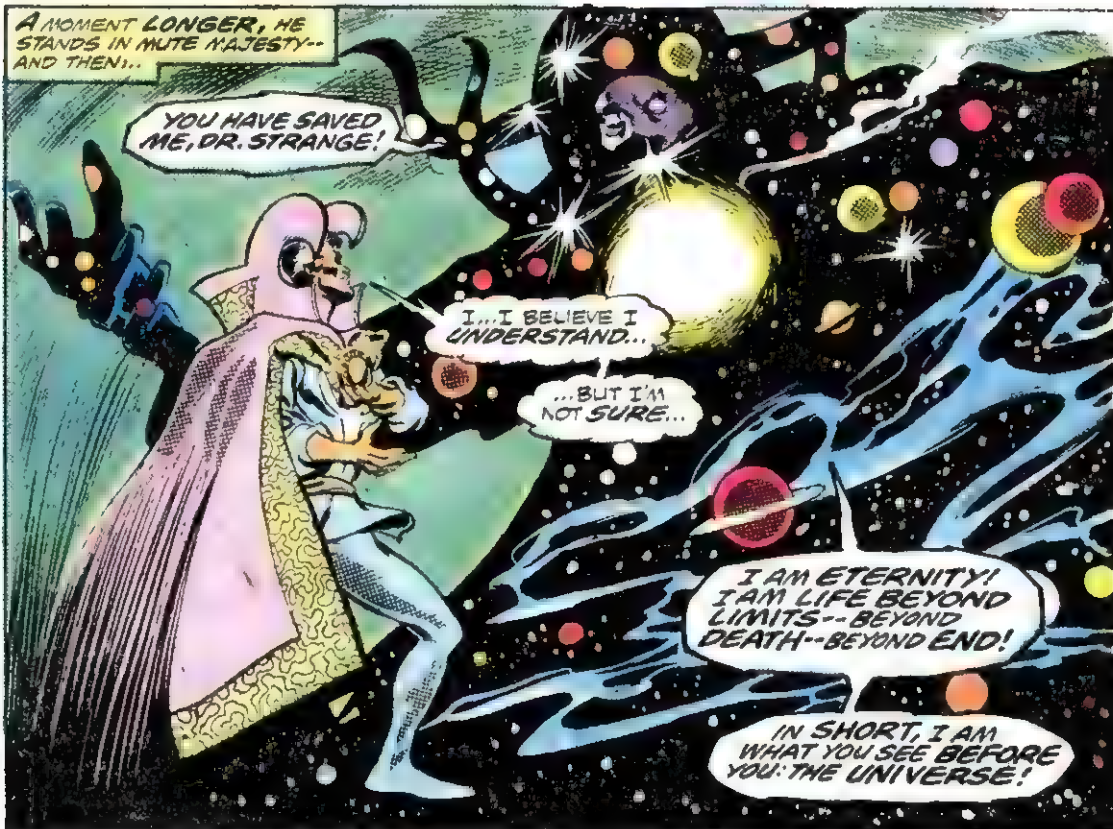
COLD THE VOICE--  
EMOTIONLESS THE  
ENTITY--

--AS THE AWESOME  
ETERNITY RISES  
SLOWLY TO HIS  
PHANTOM FEET.  
DEEP WITHIN HIS  
SULLEN DARKNESS, A  
SUN\* BEGINS TO  
JRN...



...THEN ANOTHER,  
WITH THREE MOONS  
BEYOND IT--AND SOON,  
ALL THE COSMOS IS  
ONCE MORE AWHIRL IN  
HIS FORM!

A MOMENT LONGER, HE  
STANDS IN MUTE MAJESTY--  
AND THEN...



YOU HAVE SAVED  
ME, DR. STRANGE!

I...I BELIEVE I  
UNDERSTAND...

...BUT I'M  
NOT SURE...

I AM ETERNITY!  
I AM LIFE BEYOND  
LIMITS--BEYOND  
DEATH--BEYOND END!

IN SHORT, I AM  
WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE  
YOU: THE UNIVERSE!

I AND MY BROTHER, DEATH, COMPRISE ALL OF YOUR REALITY, MYSTIC! NEITHER NE NOR I AM GOD, FOR GOD RULES ALL REALITIES!

I AM ADAM QADMON, THE ARCHETYPAL MAN, AND IN MY BOSOM GREW MORTALS, EACH ON THEIR VARIOUS WORLDS!

FROM MY SUBSTANCE THEY DREW LIFE, AND THROUGH MY WILL THEY KNEW PURPOSE! AT FIRST, THERE WAS ONLY ALGAE IN THEIR GREAT MOTHER SEAS... SIMPLE SOULS...

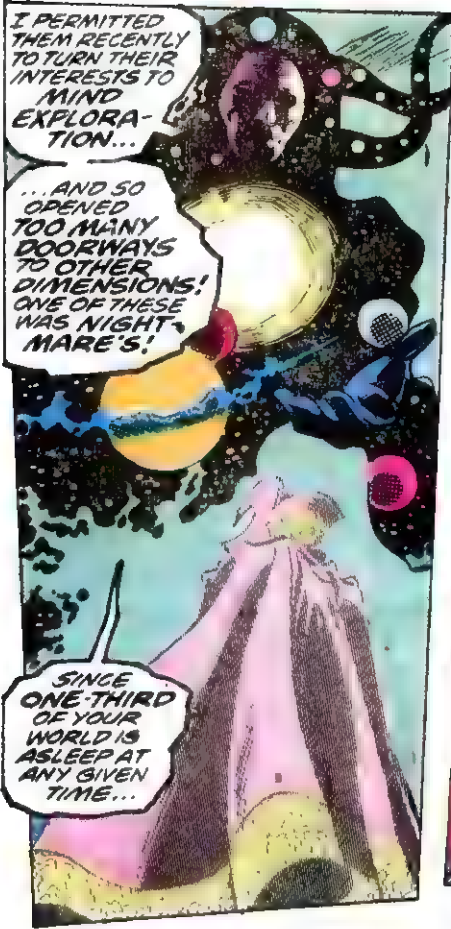
...BUT OVER THE EONS, I ADVANCED THEM-- FROM ONE CELL TO TWO, TO MANY, TO PLANTS, TO CREATURES, TO FISH--

TO MAMMALS, TO PRIMATES--

--TO MAN!

ALL THIS DID I DO, TO ADVANCE MYSELF... BUT AS THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEIR LEVEL AND MINE LESSENERD, AND THEIR NUMBERS INCREASED...

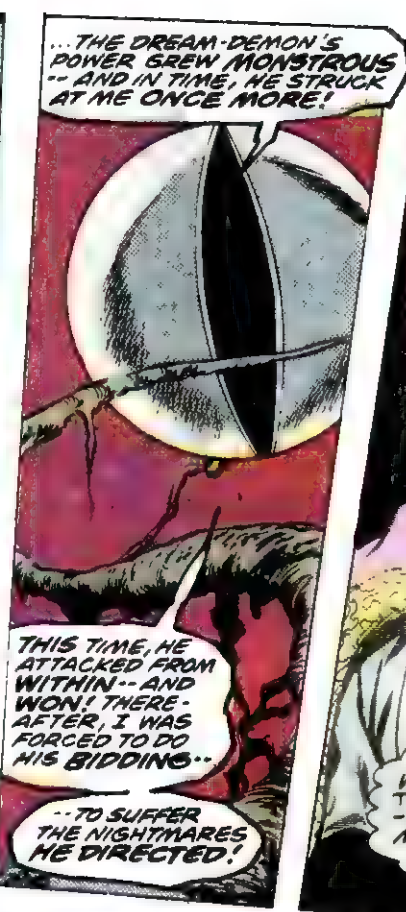
...THEIR EFFECT ON ME GREW MORE PRONOUNCED!



I PERMITTED THEM RECENTLY TO TURN THEIR INTERESTS TO MIND EXPLORATION...

...AND SO OPENED TOO MANY DOORWAYS TO OTHER DIMENSIONS! ONE OF THESE WAS NIGHTMARE'S!

SINCE ONE-THIRD OF YOUR WORLD IS ASLEEP AT ANY GIVEN TIME...



...THE DREAM-DEMON'S POWER GREW MONSTROUS -- AND IN TIME, HE STRUCK AT ME ONCE MORE!

THIS TIME, HE ATTACKED FROM WITHIN-- AND WON! THEREAFTER, I WAS FORCED TO DO HIS BIDDING--

--TO SUFFER THE NIGHTMARES HE DIRECTED!



YOU MEAN--YOU MEAN IT WAS ALL A DREAM?

NOT MY DREAM--BUT YOURS?

YOUR WARNING OF WORLD'S END, MY TRIALS AGAINST MYSELF -- JUST LIKE A BAD MELODRAMA, IT WAS ALL A DREAM!



YES, BUT MY DREAMS ARE AS MUCH YOUR REALITY AS ANY THOUGHTS FROM MY MIND! YOUR WORLD IS TRULY DESTROYED!

IT WAS NIGHTMARE'S GREATEST SCHEME!



STILL, YOU'RE AWAKE NOW! YOU CAN PUT THINGS RIGHT IN AN INSTANT!

DESPITE EVERYTHING, I'VE FINALLY WON!

NO!



I CANNOT DO THAT, DR. STRANGE! I CANNOT TAMPER WITH WHAT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED!

THE STRESS ON THE FRAGILE FABRIC OF REALITY WOULD BE TOO GREAT!



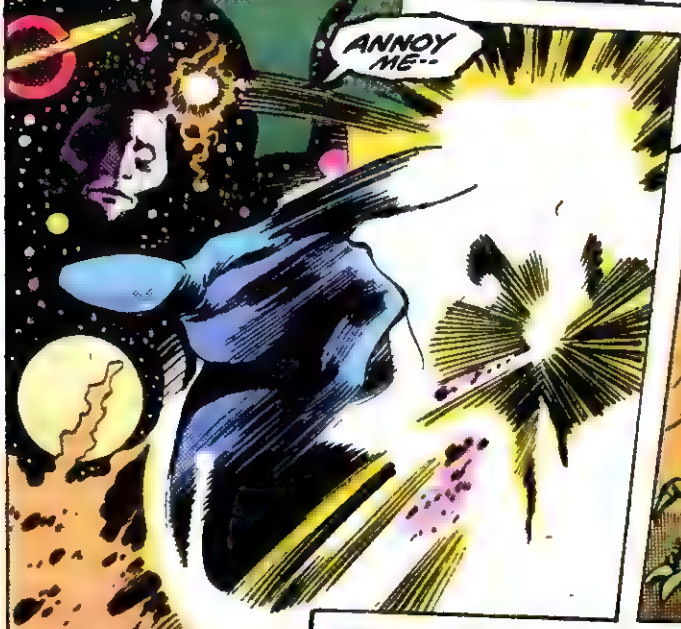
I ALTERED A MINOR MATTER FOR YOU ONCE, MAGICIAN,\* BUT THE DEATH OF A WORLD IS NO MINOR MATTER!

WHATEVER MY CONDITION, WHAT I'VE DONE IS DONE!

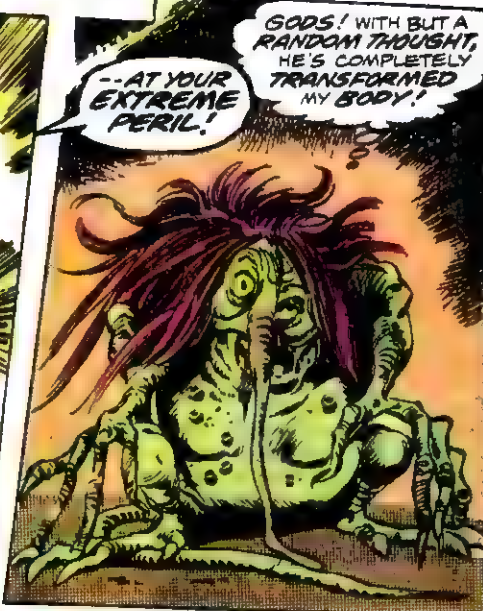
PLANET EARTH IS NO MORE!

\* AGAIN, #182.  
--M.

DO NOT SPEAK THUS TO ME, DOCTOR! I AM ABOVE SUCH PETTY EMOTIONS AS GRATITUDE!

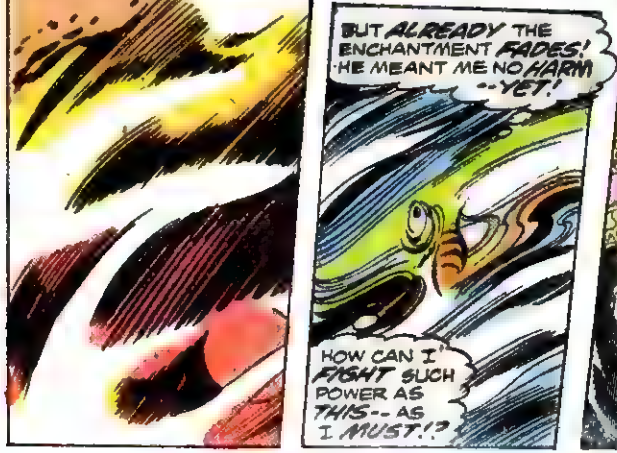


ANNOY ME--



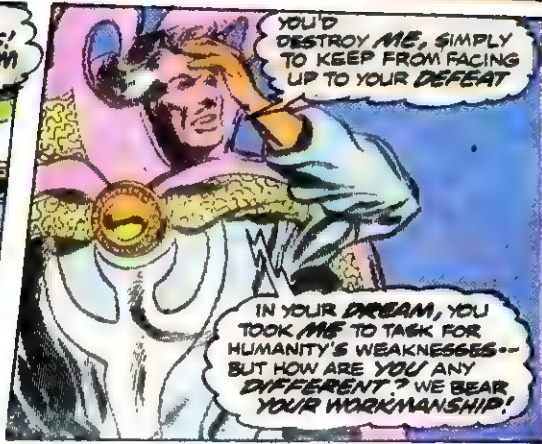
GODS! WITH BUT A RANDOM THOUGHT, HE'S COMPLETELY TRANSFORMED MY BODY!

--AT YOUR EXTREME PERIL!



BUT ALREADY THE ENCHANTMENT FADES! HE MEANT ME NO HARM --YET!

HOW CAN I FIGHT SUCH POWER AS THIS-- AS I MUST!?



YOU'D DESTROY ME, SIMPLY TO KEEP FROM FACING UP TO YOUR DEFEAT

IN YOUR DREAM, YOU TOOK ME TO TASK FOR HUMANITY'S WEAKNESSES-- BUT HOW ARE YOU ANY DIFFERENT? WE BEAR YOUR WORKMANSHIP!



WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

BY THE SHADES OF THE SERRAPHIM, I SAVED YOU!

IS THERE NO RECOMPENSE FOR THAT SALVATION?

I WARNED YOU, DOCTOR!

NOW YOU WILL FIND  
I AM NOT ABOVE  
WRATH!

HE RAISES HIS  
GREAT HAND,  
TO STRIKE HIS  
SAVIOR AS HE  
MIGHT A FLY--  
AND WITH NO MORE  
REMORSE!

BUT  
THEN--

--INTERVENTION!

THE ANCIENT  
ONE!

YOU SHALL  
NOT HARM  
MY DISCIPLE!

BY NOW, DR.  
STRANGE HAS SEEN  
EVERY-  
THING!

THERE IS NO NEED  
OF HUMAN FORM  
HERE--NOT FOR  
THEM! IT IS JUST  
WHAT HE SEES!

TWO TITANS  
GRAFFLE WITH  
EACH OTHER,  
BUT NOT  
AS THEY  
APPEAR!

AND HE  
SEES IT SOON  
ENDED!

ETERNITY TURNS AWAY, HIS SPECTRAL PROFILE DWINDLING INTO HIS DARKNESS. DR. STRANGE CAN ONLY STARE-- IT IS HIS MENTOR WHO SPEAKS.

HE WILL CONSIDER...

YES, MY SON... I DID INDEED ENTER ETERNITY'S DREAM OF DOOM, TO SPEAK FOR A TIME WITH YOU THERE. \* TIME, THOUGH INFINITE, IS FINITE, AND I ADORED THE EARTH FAR TOO LONG NOT TO RAISE MY VOICE AT ITS PASSING.

PERHAPS THE COSMOS WILL FIND WISDOM IN OUR DEEDS AFLAST.

AND YES...

NOW I HAVE INTERVENED TWICE.

\* LAST ISSUE. --M.

...THIS TRAGEDY BECAME YOUR SECOND TRIAL ON THE PATH TO UNION.

IN THE FIRST, YOU LEARNED TO ACCEPT DEATH AS INEVITABLE. IN THIS, YOU LEARNED NEVER TO ABANDON HOPE FOR LIFE.

AND NO... I DID NOT ARRANGE THESE EVENTS FOR YOU. THE NATURE OF EXISTENCE IS TO BLAME.

LIFE IS TRIAL ENOUGH FOR THE SORCERER SUPREME.

I HAVE DECIDED.

I SHALL NOT UNDO YOUR DISASTER!

HOWEVER... THOUGH THE PEOPLES OF THE EARTH DID DRIVE THEMSELVES RELENTLESSLY TOWARD DEATH, FOR WHATEVER TWISTED REASONS THEY DEVISED...

THOSE AMONG THEM WHO BELIEVED IN LIFE HAD NOT LOST THEIR VOICE AMIDST THE BAYING OF THE MOB!

DESPITE WHAT I SAID IN MY DREAM, DOOMSDAY HAD NOT YET STRUCK FOR EARTH! THE MADNESS OF BARON MORDO SEIZED AN ARTIFICIAL TIME-- OF MY CREATION!

THUS, IT IS NO MORE THAN FAIR...

**...TO RE-CREATE THE PLANET EARTH...**

**...STARTING FROM THE  
MOMENT OF ITS FIRST  
EVOLVEMENT FROM  
THE SUN...**

**...MOVING TO  
ALGAE, TO  
LIZARDS, TO  
MAN, TO CIVILI-  
ZATION... MOVING  
THROUGH EONS OF  
LIFE AT THE SPEED  
OF MY THOUGHT...**

**"...UNTIL, IN THE  
TIME IT TAKES TO  
TELL IT, WE REACH  
ONCE MORE THE  
MOMENT BEFORE  
WORLD'S END.."**

**"...WITHOUT  
MY ADDED  
INTERVENTION!"**



NOW, IT CONTINUES...  
WITHOUT MORDO,  
WITHOUT DEATH. IT  
CONTINUES AS THE  
FIRST EARTH WOULD...

...FOR IT IS IN  
ALL RESPECTS  
IDENTICAL.

NO MORTAL KNOWS  
OF HIS FIRST SELF'S  
DEMISE-- TO  
THEM, THERE IS  
STILL BUT ONE  
REALITY.

"EVERYTHING?"  
BREATHE DR.  
STRANGE. "EVERY-  
THING IS THE  
SAME?"

"EVERYTHING!"  
RUMBLES ETERNITY.

...WITH  
ONE  
EXCEPTION!

I LEFT  
NO SECOND  
DR. STRANGE!

AND NOW,  
FAREWELL,  
MYSTIC!

WELL  
DONE!

I, TOO, MUST DEPART,  
DISCIPLE...

...TRUSTING IN  
YOU TO PROTECT  
THIS NEW EARTH  
AS VALIANTLY  
AS YOU DID THE  
LAST!

BUT WHAT IS  
THIS YOUR  
FACE BETRAYS?  
SURPRISE?

DID I NOT  
TELL YOU  
THAT  
NOW--

--I AM  
ONE  
WITH THE  
UNIVERSE?

WHEN THE  
MYSTIC MASTER  
OPENS HIS  
EYES...

... HE IS BACK IN HIS STUDY.  
IN HIS SANCTUM, ON  
EARTH.

HE SITS  
THERE A  
VERY  
LONG  
TIME...

... COMING  
DOWN.

END  
MILKWEEN  
DARKNESS #175

NEXT  
ISSUE:

THE MYSTIC  
MAGE  
BATTLES

**DRACULA**  
PRINCE OF DARKNESS!

AND IT ALL BEGINS  
IN TOMB OF DRACULA  
#44 ON SALE  
FEB. 2ND!